



**COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
FIFTY-FIRST SESSION**

**AGENDA ITEM 4: PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND FUTURE PROGRAMME OF WORK OF  
THE SECRETARIAT IN THE FIELD OF POPULATION**

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND PROGRESS OF  
WORK IN THE FIELD OF POPULATION IN 2017: POPULATION DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (E/CN.9/2018/6)**

**STATEMENT BY:**

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**NEW YORK, 12 APRIL 2018**

Mister Chairperson,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates and colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of introducing document E/CN.9/2018/6, a report of the Secretary-General describing the activities of the Population Division in 2017.

Mister Chairperson,

In 1995, the parent department of the Population Division, which is now DESA, was given the responsibility for servicing the Commission on Population and Development. The Population Division was acknowledged as the body with the competency to cover the monitoring and appraisal of the broad range of topics covered by the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). The work of the Division also has been shaped by the resolutions and decisions of the Commission on Population and Development, and by relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, including those pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Mister Chairperson,

In addition to serving as Secretariat of the Commission on Population and Development and supporting intergovernmental activities in the area of international migration and development, the Population Division is responsible for producing a large body of analytic work, including essential population data resources that provide the estimates of record for the UN system and for the world.

The report of the Secretary-General provides a detailed listing of the outputs and activities of the Population Division in 2017 according to our substantive lines of work: fertility and family planning; health and mortality; international migration; global population estimates and projections; population policies; and population and development, including population ageing. I would like to highlight in this presentation the major types of our outputs and their contribution to the work of the United Nations, Member States and the international community more broadly.

In the area of data products and technical materials, the Division goes far beyond compiling statistics from other sources. In particular we produce global, comprehensive datasets on a number of topics. For these datasets we carefully evaluate all available data and adjust them as necessary to produce internationally comparable estimates. Let me highlight, for example, the World Population Prospects, a long-running series that is published on a biennial basis. The 2017 Revision of the World Population Prospects was released last year. The most well-known estimate from this dataset may be the current total global population of 7.6 billion; in fact this number is based on a complex multidimensional data set containing original estimates of numerous population indicators, including population size, fertility, mortality and net international migration, for 233 countries and areas. For most indicators, the collection includes data disaggregated by age and sex. It includes estimated indicators from 1950 to 2015, and projections to the year 2100. The data are used throughout the UN system, as well as by countries, academic researchers, and the general public. The data products and analytical reports emanating from World Population Prospects are consistently among the top downloaded publications from the website of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

In 2017 we also released an update of the international migrant stock data set, containing original estimates of the number of persons living outside their country of birth, disaggregated by age and sex or by country of origin and country of destination. The Division also updated data on world contraceptive use and unmet need for family planning. Furthermore, the contraceptive data were used to produce original, comprehensive model-based estimates and projections of family planning indicators. We began work on the *2018 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects*, which will contain updated estimates and projections of the urban and rural populations of all

countries, as well as for all urban agglomerations with 300,000 inhabitants or more. The results are expected to be released in the second quarter of 2018.

Note that the data produced by the Population Division are not limited to information about population size and characteristics, and population changes over time. The Division also publishes original data on the population policies adopted by governments. Thus, in 2017, we continued to update the database of World Population Policies, collected through the United Nations Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development and supplemental policy reviews by our staff. This database is a unique source of policy data on a wide variety of population topics.

Lastly, let me also highlight additional data collections in the areas of household composition, living arrangements of older persons, and marital status of women, as well as continuing work on an interactive database to archive and display the geographic coordinates of city boundaries according to various definitions (for example, city proper, urban agglomeration, metropolitan area) and the size of the associated populations as enumerated in national censuses.

Mister Chairperson,

Our global data sets inform a wide variety of reports and other publications on population trends and policies. These include biennial reports produced by the Division in our main substantive lines of work. The Division's original data sets are also used for a wide variety of outputs intended to be accessible to a wide audience. These include Highlights reports; population fact sheets on selected topics; and data booklets that combine key descriptive and analytical messages with a comprehensive data annex.

The data sets and associated reports produced by the Population Division strengthen the substantive support provided to intergovernmental processes. For example, the data inform the reports of the Secretary-General on the special theme of the annual sessions of the Commission on Development and on world demographic trends, as well as biennial reports to the General Assembly on international migration and development. The Division also convenes expert group meetings to further inform the content and recommendations of these reports. The report presented this morning lists, as well, several ways in which the Population Division provided support to intergovernmental processes on migration. I'll also highlight the 15<sup>th</sup> Coordination Meeting on International Migration, held in February 2017, which provided a venue for Member States, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, the private sector and academia to present, discuss and coordinate activities and initiatives on international migration.

In 2017, the Division also continued work in support of the monitoring of internationally agreed development goals. The Division's data sets on contraceptive use and model-based estimates of

family planning inform the monitoring of SDG target 3.7. As the custodian agency for SDG indicator 3.7.2 on adolescent birth rates, the Division provided updates on adolescent birth rates for women aged 15–19, now available for 219 countries or areas for the period 2000–2015. For indicator 10.7.2 on the number of countries that have implemented well-managed migration policies, the Division is working with IOM to develop and validate proposed methodology; two regional workshops, jointly with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), were organized in this regard. Furthermore, the Division continued long-standing inter-agency collaborations on the global monitoring of SDG indicators on infant and child mortality and maternal mortality.

Additionally, data produced by the Population Division are used indirectly for the global monitoring of many other SDG indicators. According to a survey that the Population Division conducted recently among chief statisticians working throughout the UN system, population data produced by the Division are being used for the global monitoring of almost 40% of tier I and tier II indicators; that is, those indicators for which there is agreement on how to measure them.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In conclusion, the Population Division remains committed to assisting in the work of the Commission on Population and Development by providing fact-based, timely and relevant data and analysis across the broad range of topics that lie at the intersection of population and development. We will continue to serve Member States and the international community, so that they can make informed judgements about the progress being made toward the objectives of the ICPD Programme of Action and toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

As always, we welcome and appreciate the comments of Member States on our work.